AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 12-16, as follows. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-11 (Canceled).

Claim 12 (Currently amended): A method for producing an oxidation-resistant rare earth metal-containing magnet powder having on its surface an adhesion layer containing [[a]] an organic pigment as a primary component, ~~characterized in that~~ the method ~~comprises~~ comprising the steps of:

_____mixing a rare earth metal-containing magnet powder having an average particle ~~diameter~~ [[(]]major axis diameter[[)]] in the range of 80 μm to 200 μm with a treating solution containing [[a]] an organic pigment having an average particle ~~diameter~~ [[(]] major axis diameter [[)]] in the range of 0.01 μm to 0.5 μm,

_____and then drying the rare earth metal-containing magnet powder having adhered to the surface thereof the treating solution containing the organic pigment.

Claim 13 (Currently amended): The production method as claimed in Claim 12, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the method further comprises, after the mixing step and before the drying step, ~~the rare earth metal-containing magnet powder with the treating solution containing the pigment, and then~~ a step of obtaining by filtration the rare earth metal-containing magnet powder having adhered to the surface thereof the treating solution containing the organic pigment.

Claim 14 (Currently amended): The production method as claimed in Claim 12, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the organic pigment accounts for 5 wt% to 33 wt% of said treating solution containing the organic pigment.

Claim 15 (Currently amended): The production method as claimed in Claim 12, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said treating solution containing the organic pigment comprises an organic dispersing medium.

Claim 16 (Currently amended): A method for producing an oxidation-resistant rare earth metal-containing magnet powder having an adhesion layer containing [[a]] an organic pigment as a primary component ~~adhered to the outermost surface with one or more interposed layers of coating films formed on the surface of the rare earth metal-containing magnet powder, characterized in that~~ the method ~~comprises~~ comprising the steps of:

_____mixing a rare earth metal-containing magnet powder having an average particle ~~diameter~~ [[(]] major axis diameter [[)]] in the range of 80 μm to 200 μm, and having one or more layers of coating films formed on the surface thereof with a treating solution containing [[a]] an organic pigment having an average particle ~~diameter~~ [[(]] major axis diameter [[)]] in the range of 0.01 μm to 0.5 μm,

_____and then drying the rare earth metal-containing magnet powder having adhered to the outermost surface thereof the treating solution containing the organic pigment.

Claims 17-20 (Canceled).